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TELEGRAPH BRANCH

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TO: Secretary of State DEPARTMENT OF STATE

NO: 94, July 20, 7 p.m.

In final session of Joint Assembly Socialists, Liberals and Communists walked out of hall before vote was taken on law of July 19, 1945. Thereupon following roll call vote PSC majority approved legislation declaring the impossibility of reigning of Leopold III was at an end and abolishing Regency. Vote was 198 in favor, including all PSC parliamentarians except 2 absent for illness and 1 Liberal. It is reported President's of Senate and Chamber, possibly accompanied by Prime Minister, will go to Geneva formally to apprize King of his restoration.

In stormy session last night Parliament wound up debate on "application of law of July 19, 1945."

[redacted]

In his wind-up speech last night in Parliament, President of Socialist Party, Buset, reaffirmed previous statement that no Socialist would accept any portfolio while Leopold is King and announced that Socialist Party members would return honorific distinctions which have been conferred on them in various national orders. Buset concluded his harangue with significant threat "Leopold III and his party wish a trial by force. They shall have it."

Following this statement Belgian Socialist Party today published following declaration addressed to Belgian people:

"The Belgian Socialist Party declares that it no longer recognizes Leopold III as King of the Belgians.

"It refuses him any political cooperation either present or future.

"It

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"It will remain in opposition until such time as, abdication having at last been obtained, it may be possible for Belgians to reconcile themselves about a King who respects his constitutional duties and the moral bond which, under a democracy, should unite a King to his people."

On night of eighteenth bomb exploded by outer wall surrounding Park of Laeken where Queen Mother Elisabeth resides and to which it is popularly supposed Leopold will first go on his return to Belguim. Official investigation is not complete and perpetrators are not known. However, Communists have been quick on trigger and DRAPEAU ROUGE today characterizes explosion as work of agents provacateurs.

All signs indicate that Brussels at least may be in for a somewhat tumultuous weekend. I have an appointment to see Van Zeeland this evening and may be in a position later to provide Department with official word as to government's reaction to these events.

MURPHY

JRM:LQB